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Agriculture development and food security

Argentina:* draft resolution

Agriculture development and food security

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security,[1] particularly the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security,

Recalling also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[2] Agenda 21,[3] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[4] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[5] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[6] the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[7] the 2005 World Summit Outcome[8] and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[9] the outcome document of the High-

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[5] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[6] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[7] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[8] See resolution 60/1.

[9] Resolution 63/239, annex.

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level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals[10] and the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, as well as its resolutions 64/224 of 21 December 2009 and 65/178 of 20 December 2010,

Recalling further the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and Plan of Action of the World Food Summit,[11] the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later,[12] including the goal of achieving food security for all through an ongoing effort to eradicate hunger in all countries, with an immediate view to reducing by half the number of undernourished people by no later than 2015, as well as the commitment to achieving, in particular, Millennium Development Goal 1 and the goals set out in paragraph 19 of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[13]

Reiterating that the multiple and complex causes of the global food crisis in developing countries and its consequences for food security and nutrition require a comprehensive and coordinated response in the short, medium and long terms by national Governments and the international community, and remaining concerned that volatile food prices pose a serious challenge to the fight against poverty and hunger and to the efforts of developing countries to attain food security and nutrition and to achieve the objective of reducing by half the number of undernourished people by no later than 2015, as well as other internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Expressing deep concern that many developing countries have become net food importers due, inter alia, to the decrease in international cooperation and agricultural investment and the maintenance of agricultural subsidies in developed countries, which have a negative impact on the agricultural production of developing countries, and, in this regard, emphasizing the need to maximize the benefits and minimize the cost of international trade liberalization,

Recognizing the importance of an enabling international and national environment to increase and sustain investment in the agriculture sector of developing countries and to create a more level playing field in agriculture through greater market access, a substantial reduction in trade-distorting domestic support and the parallel elimination of all forms of export subsidies and disciplines on all export measures with equivalent effect in accordance with the mandate from the Doha Work Programme of the World Trade Organization,[14]

Recognizing also that agriculture plays a crucial role in addressing the needs of a growing global population and is inextricably linked to poverty eradication, especially in developing countries, and stressing that integrated and sustainable agriculture and rural development approaches are therefore essential to achieving enhanced food security in an environmentally sustainable way,

Recognizing further the importance and positive role of smallholder farmers, including women, cooperatives and indigenous and local communities in developing

[10] See resolution 65/1.

[11] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the World Food Summit, 13-17 November 1996* (WFS 96/REP), part one, appendix.

[12] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the World Food Summit: five years later, 10-13 June 2002*, part one, appendix; see also A/57/499, annex.

[13] See resolution 55/2.

[14] See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

countries, and their knowledge and practices, in the preservation, conservation and sustainable use of traditional crops and biodiversity for present and future generations as an important contribution to the achievement of food security, as well as in the implementation of development goals in such fields as employment policy, social integration, regional and rural development, agriculture and environmental protection,

Reaffirming the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, so as to be able to fully develop and maintain his or her physical and mental capacities,

Stressing the importance of the preservation of the natural resource base for food security,

Noting with appreciation the work undertaken by relevant international bodies and organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme, on agricultural development and on enhancing food security and nutrition,

Welcoming the outcome of the thirty-seventh session of the Committee on World Food Security, held in Rome from 17 to 22 October 2011, recognizing that a sense of urgency and a commitment to solving the global food crisis have served as catalysts for strengthening international coordination and governance for food security, through the Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, of which the Committee on World Food Security is a central component, and reiterating that it is essential to enhance global governance, building on existing institutions and fostering effective partnerships,

Expressing concern that the number of people living in extreme poverty and hunger surpasses one billion, which is an unacceptable blight on the lives, livelihoods and dignity of many of the world's people, mostly in developing countries, and noting that the effects of long-standing underinvestment in food security, agriculture and rural development have recently been further exacerbated by the food, financial and economic crises, among other factors,

Remaining deeply concerned about the starvation and humanitarian disaster on an unimaginable scale faced by millions of people in the Horn of Africa,

Expressing further concern about the excessive food price volatility, which has a strong impact on food security and nutrition, particularly for poorer people, and has undermined the prospect of developing countries for economic growth and poverty alleviation, including the goal to halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger by 2015,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[15]

2. *Welcomes* the note by the Chair of the Committee on World Food Security on the reform of the Committee and on progress made towards its

[15] A/66/277.

implementation,[16] and urges Member States to strongly support the reform process and the aims and endeavours of the Committee;

3. *Reiterates* the need to adequately and urgently address agriculture development and food security in the context of national, regional and international development policies taking into account the importance of enhancing synergies between agriculture, biodiversity, food security and development policies;

4. *Also reiterates* the importance of developing countries determining their own food security strategies, that food security is a national responsibility and that any plans for addressing food security challenges and the eradication of poverty in relation to food security must be nationally articulated, designed, owned and led and built on consultation with all key stakeholders at the national level, and urges Member States to make food security a high priority and to reflect this in their national programmes and budgets;

5. *Reaffirms* the importance of adopting forward-looking economic policies that lead to sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development and which increase employment opportunities, promote agriculture development and reduce poverty;

6. *Remains deeply concerned* by the global food crises and their negative impact on nutrition in the world, especially in countries in the Horn of Africa and other developing countries, and, in this regard, underlines the urgent need for joint efforts by the international community to respond in a coherent and effective manner to this food catastrophe;

7. *Recognizes* that underdevelopment, desertification and land degradation, as well as extreme weather events, have undermined the livelihood, food security and nutrition in countries in the Horn of Africa and other developing countries, and calls for an integrated approach from the international community in the form of immediate and medium- and long-term actions to address food security and nutrition;

8. *Supports* research on food and agriculture, including research to adapt to and mitigate climate change, and access to research results and technologies at the national, regional and international levels;

9. *Stresses* the need to address the root causes of excessive food price volatility, including its structural causes, at all levels, and to manage the risks linked to excessive volatility in agriculture commodity prices and its consequences for food security and nutrition, as well as for smallholder farmers;

10. *Recognizes* the need to design a comprehensive and coordinated response to address the multiple and complex causes of the global food crisis, including the adoption of political, economic, social, financial and technical solutions in the short, medium and long terms by national Governments and the international community, including for mitigating the impact of the high volatility of food prices on developing countries, and also recognizes that the relevant United Nations organizations have an important role to play in this regard;

11. *Urges* Member States and international organizations to pursue policies and strategies that improve the functioning of domestic, regional and international markets and ensure equitable access for all to those markets, especially smallholder

[16] See A/66/76-E/2011/102.

and women farmers in developing countries, notes the importance of non-trade-distorting special measures that are consistent with World Trade Organization rules aimed at creating incentives for smallholder farmers in developing countries to enable them to increase their productivity and to compete on a more equal footing in world food markets, and urges Member States to refrain from taking measures that are inconsistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization and that have adverse impacts on global, regional and national food security;

12. *Stresses* that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system will promote agriculture and rural development in developing countries and contribute to world food security, and urges national, regional and international strategies to promote the participation of farmers, especially smallholder farmers, including women, in community, domestic, regional and international markets;

13. *Calls upon* Member States and the World Trade Organization to take measures to promote trade policies that would be capable of promoting further trade in agriculture products, identifying the obstacles to trade which have the most serious impact on the world's poor and contributing to supporting small-scale and marginalized producers in developing countries;

14. *Recognizes* the urgency of, and reaffirms its commitment to, reaching an early and successful conclusion of the Doha Round of World Trade Organization negotiations with a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and development-oriented outcome as a key action to improve food security;

15. *Reaffirms* the need to include prevention and mitigation measures for the poor and smallholder farmers, particularly women in developing countries, appropriate to their national context and circumstances and in accordance with their capacities, especially when excessive volatility in agriculture prices causes access and market disruptions in the short, medium and long term within the context of local, national, regional and international development policies, taking into account World Trade Organization rules and provisions;

16. *Recognizes* the centrality of smallholder farmers, including women and local and indigenous communities in ensuring food security and nutrition and reducing poverty and recognizes also the need to support them;

17. *Notes* the challenges faced by indigenous peoples in the context of food security, and in this regard calls upon States to take special actions to combat the root causes of the disproportionately high level of hunger and malnutrition among indigenous peoples;

18. *Stresses* the need to strengthen the capacity of smallholder farmers as a strategy to enhance agriculture development and food security by promoting equitable access to land, water, financial resources and technologies in accordance with national legislation, as well as improving smallholder farmers' participation and access to sustainable agriculture value chains and markets;

19. *Underlines* the need for substantial additional investment and better policies in support of smallholder agriculture in order for many of the poorest countries to reach the poverty and hunger targets of the Millennium Development Goals;

20. *Stresses* that increasing the sustainable production and augmenting the availability and quality of food, including through long-term investment, access of

smallholder farmers to markets, credit and inputs, improved land-use planning, crop diversification, commercialization, and development of an adequate rural infrastructure and enhanced market access for developing countries, as well as sound water management, including efficient irrigation, water harvesting and storage, and the development of strong agriculture value chains and investment in rural infrastructure, are critical to accelerating progress in order to achieve Millennium Development Goal 1;

21. *Recognizes* the importance of agricultural investment, including foreign direct investment, through, inter alia, the private sector in enhancing agriculture development and food security as well as the need to promote responsible international investment in agriculture, and therefore calls for all investors to conduct agricultural practices in accordance with national legislation, taking into account national sovereignty over natural resources, environmental sustainability and the importance of promoting the well-being and improving the livelihood of local communities and indigenous peoples, as appropriate;

22. *Encourages* international, regional and national efforts to strengthen the capacity of developing countries, in particular their small-scale producers, in order to enhance the productivity and nutritional quality of food crops and to promote sustainable practices in pre-harvest and post-harvest agricultural activities;

23. *Underlines* the need to achieve food security and nutrition through sustainable agriculture in a manner that addresses the multiplicity of social needs and desires, without jeopardizing options for future generations;

24. *Also underlines* the need to continue to take into account agriculture development and food security as integral parts of the three pillars of sustainable development;

25. *Stresses* the need to continue to strengthen cooperation among the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme and all other relevant entities of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, the international financial institutions and international trade, financial and economic institutions, in accordance with their respective mandates, in order to increase their effectiveness, as well as to strengthen cooperation with non-governmental organizations and the private sector in promoting and strengthening efforts towards agriculture development and food security and nutrition;

26. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee on World Food Security to report, as part of the Committee's report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the reform of, and on progress made towards achieving the vision of, the Committee;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on developments related to issues highlighted in the present resolution and on the progress in the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit on Food Security;

28. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Agriculture development and food security", to be allocated to the Second Committee.